



1216.0 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Jul 2007

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Summary

Main Features

NOTES

PURPOSE OF THE ASGC

The main purpose of the ASGC is for collecting and disseminating geographically classified statistics. These are statistics with a 'where' dimension.

The ASGC provides a common framework of statistical geography which enables the production of statistics that are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

In practice, statistical units such as households and businesses are first assigned to a geographical area in one of the seven ASGC structures. Data collected from these statistical units are then compiled into ASGC defined geographic aggregations which, subject to confidentiality restrictions, are then available for publication.

The purposes of this publication are to outline the ASGC structures, describe the codes and names of geographical areas used and depict the statistical relationship between different types of geography used in the classification.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Geography by email to geography@abs.gov.au or by phone on (02) 6252 5888.

About this Release

Previously released as, Statistical Geography Volume 1 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)

A classification system, designed and maintained by the ABS, which divides Australia into geographical areas for the purpose of collecting and disseminating statistics. It provides details of the statistical geographical areas effective at 1 July 2007 and also maps of these areas.

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Introduction

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This section contains the following subsection :

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Classification Structures

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CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURES

The seven interrelated classification structures of the ASGC are:

- Main Structure
- Local Government Area Structure
- Statistical District Structure
- Statistical Region Structure
- Urban Centre/Locality Structure
- Section of State Structure
- Remoteness Structure.

Each of these structures serves a specific purpose and is individually discussed in Chapters 2-8.

In Census of Population and Housing years (e.g. 1996, 2001, 2006), all structures of the ASGC are defined. In intercensal years, only the first four structures are defined.

The Main Structure, the Statistical Region Structure, the Section of State Structure, and the Remoteness Structure cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The other structures cover only part of Australia. The structures are hierarchical, with different structures having different numbers of levels (see Table 1). Each hierarchical level is made up of one type of geographical spatial unit. The spatial units at each higher level are aggregations of the spatial units at the previous lower level.

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SPATIAL UNITS

The various geographical areas, or spatial units, which build the different classification structures are as follows:

- Census Collection District (CD)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)
- Statistical Subdivision (SSD)
- Statistical Division (SD)
- State and Territory (S/T)
- Statistical District (S Dist.)
- Local Government Area (LGA)
- Statistical Region Sector (SRS)
- Statistical Region (SR)
- Major Statistical Region (MSR)
- Urban Centre/Locality (UC/L)
- Section(s) of State (SOS)
- Remoteness Area (RA).

During Population Census years, the smallest spatial unit is the CD. It is the basic building block of the

classification structures. Between censuses, the smallest spatial unit is the SLA. Thus for those years when a census is held, all the above spatial units are defined. In intercensal years, all units except CDs, UC/Ls, SOS and RAs are defined.

These spatial units are individually explained in Chapters 2-8.

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SUMMARY TABLES

The various ASGC structures and their component spatial units are shown in the following table:

TABLE 1, SUMMARY OF ASGC STRUCTURES

ASGC Structure	Hierarchical Levels	Component Spatial Units	Covers whole of Australia?
Local Government Area	4	CD,SLA,LGA,S/T(a)	No
Statistical District	4	CD,SLA,SSD,S Dist(b)	No
Main	5	CD,SLA,SSD,SD,S/T	Yes
Statistical Region	6	CD,SLA,SRS,SR,MSR,S/T	Yes
Section of State	3	CD,SOS,S/T	Yes
Remoteness	3	CD,RA,S/T	Yes
Urban Centre/Locality	2	CD,UC/L(c)	No

(a) Only that part of the S/T which comes under the responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council. (See Chapter 3).

(b) Areas covered by S Dist only.

(c) Areas covered by UC/L only.

The number of spatial units in the various ASGC structures current at 1 July 2007 are shown in the table below:

TABLE 2, SUMMARY OF ASGC SPATIAL UNITS AS AT 1 JULY 2007

Spatial Unit	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	OT	Aust.
S/T	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
SD	13	12	14	8	10	5	3	2	2	69
SSD	51	46	39	21	29	9	12	8	2	217
SLA	200	210	479	128	156	44	96	109	4	1 426
LGA	153	80	159	71	143	30	38	1	1	676
S Dist.(a)	14	8	10	-	4	2	-	1	-	36
MSR	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	14
SR	22	14	13	6	7	1	1	1	1	66
SRS	25	14	29	6	7	3	2	1	2	89

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Counted in predominant state or territory.

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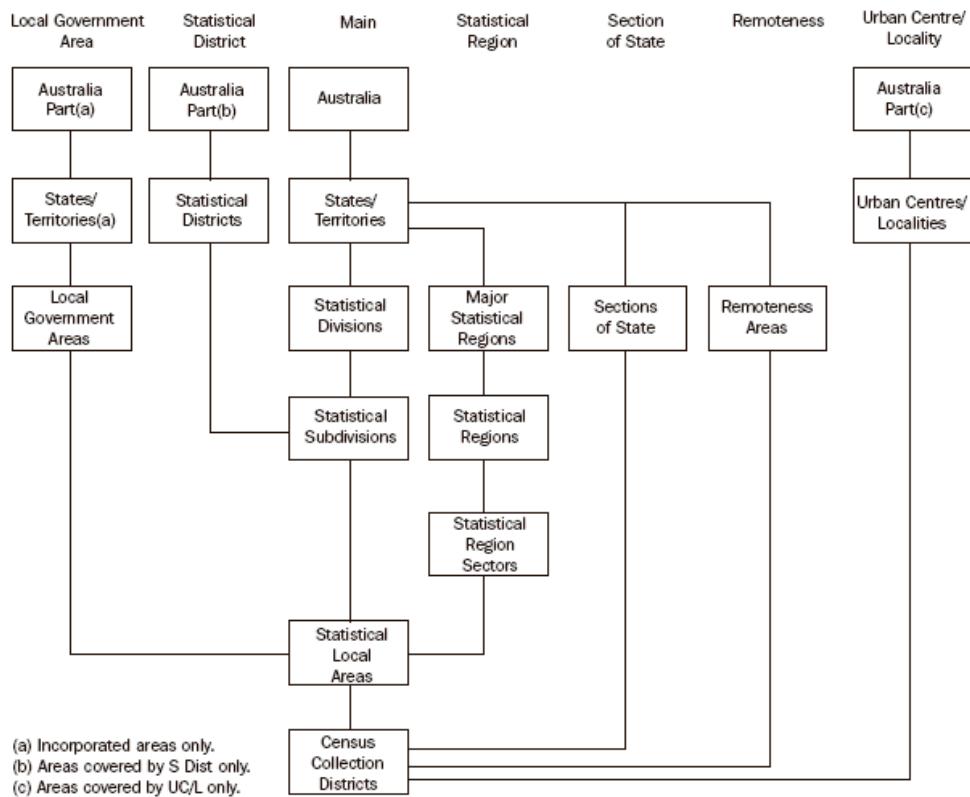
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ASGC Structural Chart

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ASGC STRUCTURAL CHART

The diagram below depicts the various ASGC structures and shows how they interrelate.



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PRINCIPLES OF THE ASGC

The ASGC is constructed on the principle that it must fulfil user needs for spatial statistics while also conforming to general classification principles.

Classification principles

The ASGC is constructed on the basic classification principles that members within one class are of the same type, classes are uniquely defined so as to be mutually exclusive and, in total, the members in each class cover the entire class.

As a result, the geographical units of each hierarchical level in each classification structure of the ASGC are:

- of the same type, delimited by well-defined criteria
- clearly demarcated by precise boundaries
- uniquely identified by codes and names
- mutually exclusive
- in aggregate cover the whole area to which that hierarchy applies.

User needs

The ASGC is designed to meet user needs for social, demographic and economic statistics. The smallest units of the ASGC i.e. CDs at census times and SLAs at intercensal times, have been designed such that they are:

- convenient and efficient for data collection
- useful and relevant for data dissemination

- flexible for aggregation to larger units
- useful building blocks for user-defined regions.

Thus, CDs are designed for efficient data collection at census times. Each CD covers an area which allows census data to be collected in an efficient and cost effective manner. SLAs are defined on the administrative areas of local governments. Local governments are both a useful source of data and a relevant dissemination unit for users.

CDs aggregate to SLAs which, in turn, aggregate to other larger areas of the ASGC. Each of these geographical areas serves a specific purpose and meets user needs. Many organisations employ the CDs and the SLAs as the building blocks to construct their own geography for statistical purposes.

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Definition of Australia

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DEFINITION OF AUSTRALIA

For ASGC purposes, the ABS uses the definition of Australia as set out in section 17(a) of the **Acts Interpretation Act 1901** which currently defines Australia or the Commonwealth as meaning:

'...the Commonwealth of Australia and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, but does not include any other external Territory.'

Following the incorporation of the Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands into geographic Australia (by the **Territories Law Reform Act, No. 104, 1992**, which amended the **Acts Interpretation Act 1901**), these two territories were included in the ASGC from 1 July 1993. Other external territories (such as Norfolk Island) remain excluded. In addition, the treatment of Jervis Bay Territory in the ASGC changed from 1 July 1993.

Jervis Bay Territory was previously included with the Australian Capital Territory for statistical purposes because of its administrative association with the Australian Capital Territory and because its relatively small size prevented it from meeting confidentiality requirements for statistical output. Following the granting of self-government to the Australian Capital Territory in May 1989, the situation was reviewed and from the 1 July 1993 Edition of the ASGC, Jervis Bay Territory, along with the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, formed part of a new category, Other Territories, at the state/territory level. Although included as part of the ASGC, all three of these territories are currently regarded as out-of-scope for ABS censuses and surveys except for the Census of Population and Housing, population estimates, and Cause of Death.

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Main structure

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Purpose

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PURPOSE

The Main Structure of the ASGC is used to collect and disseminate a broad range of ABS social, demographic and economic statistics. Although the Main Structure is the most widely used and has broad application, the other structures are equally important to their own purposes. Maps depicting the Main Structure boundaries are provided in Chapter 16.

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THE STRUCTURE

The Main Structure has five hierarchical levels at Population Census times, comprising in ascending order: CDs-SLAs-SSDs-SDs-S/Ts. In non-census years, CDs are undefined and the Main Structure thus has only four levels of hierarchy.

In this structure, CDs aggregate to form SLAs, SLAs aggregate to form SSDs, and this aggregation principle continues up the remaining hierarchical levels. At each hierarchical level, the component spatial units (e.g. SLAs) collectively cover all of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

Tables

Detailed tables of the Main Structure are shown in Chapter 15 - The Classification Structures.

For example:

- Main Structure - Broad

(showing three hierarchical levels: S/T-SD-SSD)

S/T	SD	SSD	NAME
4			SOUTH AUSTRALIA
	05		Adelaide
	05		Northern Adelaide
	10		Western Adelaide

- Main Structure - Detailed

(showing four hierarchical levels: S/T-SD-SSD-SLA)

S/T	SD	SSD	SLA	NAME
4				SOUTH AUSTRALIA
	05			Adelaide
	05			Northern Adelaide
	2030			Gawler (T)
	5681			Playford (C) - East Central
	10			Western Adelaide
	1061			Charles Sturt (C) - Coastal
	1064			Charles Sturt (C) - Inner East

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The Spatial Units

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

CDs are designed for use in census years for the collection and dissemination of Population Census data. In non-census years, CDs are undefined. In aggregate, CDs cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

The CD is the smallest spatial unit in the ASGC. CDs aggregate to form the larger spatial units of SLAs in the Main, Statistical Region, Statistical District and LGA Structures, Sections of State in the SOS Structure, Urban Centres and Localities in the UC/L Structure and Remoteness Areas in the Remoteness Structure. Aggregation of SLAs in turn forms the remaining spatial units in the ASGC. Therefore, in census years, the CD is the common denominator which integrates all classification structures in the ASGC (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

The traditional concept of a CD is that it defines an area that one census collector can cover, delivering and collecting census forms, in about a ten-day period. However, in the interests of comparability between censuses, this criterion is no longer strictly observed. In the 2006 edition, many urban CDs are of a size such that census collectors may be allocated more than one CD. In urban areas CDs average about 220 dwellings. In rural areas the number of dwellings per CD reduces as population densities decrease. By design, CD boundaries do not cross SLA (and thus LGA) boundaries. Therefore, an aggregation of CDs covers the administrative area of a local government.

For the 2006 Census, 38,704 CDs were defined throughout Australia.

Delimitation of CDs

For 2006 Census the following standard CD design principles were used for delimiting CDs:

- 2001 Census CD boundaries should be retained wherever possible.
- CDs should be designed as the smallest spatial units of collection for the Population Census and be capable of aggregation to form larger spatial units.
- CD boundaries must conform with SLA boundaries, which in turn conform with LGA boundaries. Since all other boundaries for the census edition of the ASGC are created by aggregation of CDs, CDs automatically conform to these other ASGC boundaries.
- CD boundaries, wherever practical, should also conform to the following non-ABS boundaries - gazetted Suburb/Locality boundaries, Commonwealth Electoral Divisions (CED) and State Electoral Divisions (SED). In 2006, where new CDs are defined in growth areas, CD design should take into account these non-ABS boundaries. However, if no other changes are needed, boundaries should not be changed merely to improve their alignment to non-ABS boundaries.
- The area, population and dwellings delimited by a CD boundary must not be so great that one collector cannot deliver census forms within about ten days. In urban areas one or more CDs can be combined to create a single collector's workload (CLW).
- The chosen CD boundaries should, if possible, be readily identifiable on the ground. They should be defined in terms of permanent features and follow the centre of the road or river if these features are used. However, the use of major roads as CD boundaries in rural areas should be avoided where possible to minimise the splitting of identifiable rural localities. In addition, the chosen CD boundary should delimit CDs which conform to existing and proposed land uses (i.e. rural property boundaries and proposed suburban development).
- CDs should not be designed in such a way as to prevent publication of data for confidentiality reasons. Accordingly, a CD, which is not a deliberate Nil CD, should contain, where possible, at least 100 persons at the next census. For dissemination purposes, Indigenous Community CDs should contain at least 80 persons.
- CDs in aggregate must cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

Special purpose CDs

Special purpose CDs are created so that special enumeration procedures can be applied. They are:

- Commercial or Industrial Area CDs - are defined for buildings predominantly used for commercial trade or work intended for both retail and wholesale trade. They may also include factories, plants, and warehouses used for industrial/manufacturing purposes.
- Construction and/or Mining CDs - are defined when the construction camp is located adjacent to or within

close proximity of a major building or mine development project and is expected to exist for at least two censuses.

- Defence Establishments CDs - are created for cluster of residential dwellings (and related amenities) specifically occupied by or built for defence force personnel. Unlike 2001, all Defence CDs will have a defined geographic location in 2006, that is, there are no Defence point CDs.
- Deliberate Nil CDs - are created for areas where it is not expected that persons or dwellings will be enumerated on census night. This may be an expanse of National Park which, if included in an adjoining populated area would provide a distorted view of population density for that area.
- Ethnic Area CDs - are defined for areas with high concentrations of one or more ethnic groups with a predominance of householders that eg. non-English speaking.
- Holiday Areas CDs - are created to identify areas with a seasonal transient holidaying population, and at the time of the census could contain either a high or low occupancy rate.
- Indigenous Community CDs - are defined where there is a significant Indigenous population.
- Migrant Detention Centres (Permanent) CDs - are defined for permanent migrant detention centres.
- Major Waterways CDs - consist of water only and contain no population. They are mostly found in urban areas where an LGA boundary extends from the shore to include part of a body of water. Any person enumerated on a Water CD is subsequently transferred to the default land-based CD at the time that the census forms are processed. Therefore, water CDs do not have any statistical data associated with them. These CDs may not be included in higher level boundary aggregations to give a more realistic representation of the Australian coastline.
- Non-Private Dwelling (NPD) CDs - include hotels, motels, hospital, nursing homes, hostels, shelter for the homeless etc.
- Non-Private Dwelling and Secure Apartment Building (NaSAB) CDs - are defined for high proportion of secured apartments buildings and Non-Private Dwellings (eg. hotel, motels, hospitals, etc).
- Private Dwelling Establishments (PDE) CDs - are defined for areas with a high proportion of Private Dwelling Establishments (known as Other Dwellings CDs in 2001) and include caravan parks, manufactured home states, marinas, retirement villages and mixed occupancy apartment complexes.
- Point CDs - are created when a specific community or establishment has a central location but where some or all of the members of the community or establishment are not fixed at that specific location on census night, although they are counted as being at that location. They have no defined boundaries and are represented as points. These CDs include Migratory, Shipping CDs, Offshore CDs and may include Indigenous communities, or mining or construction camps.
- Secured Apartment Buildings (SAB) CDs - this new category of SAB CD has been created to address the enumeration problems often faced by collectors when gaining access to secured apartments. These are predominantly located in the CBDs of major urban centres.
- Snowfields CDs - contains predominantly accommodation establishments or dwellings which house transient seasonal populations. These CDs are within close proximity of recreational areas that provide activities relating to the snow fields.
- Prison CDs - contains buildings (including remand areas) which house adult inmates and are administered by the State Departments of Corrective Services, or on their behalf by private organisations. These buildings will directly relate to the housing and support of inmates and are usually found within the boundary of a prison complex or campus.
- Off-shore CDs (including Oil Rigs and Antarctic Enumeration) - are designed to facilitate the recording of people on census night who are off-shore on all structures (such as oil and gas drilling rigs) in Australian waters or those structures outside Australian waters for which immigration formalities are not required to be completed. They are not spatial units in the usual sense as they do not have defined boundaries.
- Shipping CDs - covers an area of water, normally a port, which is controlled by a Port Authority. Shipping CDs have defined boundaries. They are designed to record people who are on board vessels in or between Australian ports on Census night.
- Migratory CDs - are used to record all people who are in transit on long distance trains, buses, aircraft and long haul road transport vehicles on census night. The crew and staff of both passenger and other commercial land and air transport are also attributed to the Migratory CD. They are not spatial units in the usual sense as they do not have defined boundaries.

Off-shore, Shipping and Migratory CDs are not defined for the Australian Capital Territory. For the 2006 Census, Australian residents temporarily in Antarctica, Heard or Macquarie Islands, were included in the off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs of Tasmania.

CD codes

CDs are identified by unique six-digit codes within each S/T.

Example:

1160501 is CD 160501 of New South Wales

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

The SLA is a general purpose spatial unit. It is the base spatial unit used to collect and disseminate statistics other than those collected from the Population Censuses. In non-census years, the SLA is the smallest unit defined in the ASGC. In census years, an SLA consists of one or more whole CDs. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

SLAs aggregate directly to form the larger spatial units of SSDs in the Main Structure, SRSs in the SR Structure and LGAs in the LGA Structure (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). SSDs in turn aggregate to form the larger spatial units of S Dists in the S Dist. Structure. Therefore, the SLA is the common denominator which integrates the four classification structures in use in both census and non-census years.

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 1,426 SLAs in Australia including one SLA for each of the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

SLAs are listed in the table - Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic - in Chapter 15.

Delimitation of SLAs

SLAs are based on the boundaries of incorporated bodies of local government where these exist. These bodies are the Local Government Councils and the geographical areas which they administer are known as Local Government Areas (LGAs).

An LGA is an SLA if it fits entirely within an SSD and is broadly similar in size, economic significance and user needs for statistics to other LGAs in Australia.

For example, the SLA Albury (C) corresponds to the whole LGA of City of Albury in New South Wales. In this edition of the ASGC, 484 of the total 1,426 SLAs, approximately 34%, equate with a whole LGA while approximately 73% of the 667 LGAs equate with one SLA.

An LGA will be composed of two or more SLAs when the above conditions are not met. This can occur if an LGA is divided by the boundary of one or more SSDs or where the LGA is substantially different in size, economic significance and user needs for statistics to other LGAs. The LGA is then split into two or more SLAs which generally correspond to one or more suburbs (as occurs in the predominantly urban LGA of the City of Brisbane) or other areas of interest.

For example, the LGA of Shire of Calliope in Queensland is split into two SLAs Calliope (S) - Pt A and Calliope (S) - Pt B because it is split by an SSD boundary, and, the LGA of the City of Brisbane is split into 158 SLAs generally based on suburbs.

There are large parts of Australia which are not administered by incorporated local government bodies. For those areas an SLA is an unincorporated area. Unincorporated SLAs are defined for unincorporated on-shore area(s) and/or off-shore island(s) in an SSD or are defined for that part of an unincorporated area which is considered of sufficient economic significance as to warrant the formation of a separate SLA.

For example, Unincorp. Pirie is an unincorporated SLA in the Pirie SSD in South Australia and Unincorp. Islands is an unincorporated SLA in North West SSD in Queensland. Similarly the SLAs of Petermann-Simpson and Tanami in Central NT SSD in the Northern Territory are unincorporated areas.

Other large parts of Australia which are unincorporated include the unincorporated part of the Northern Territory. For some SSDs (e.g. East Arnhem), the unincorporated area is split into several SLAs to distinguish an economically significant town (e.g. Nhulunbuy), island (e.g. Groote Eylandt) or administrative region. The Australian Capital Territory is entirely an unincorporated area where each SLA is either a suburb, a locality or the non-urban area of an SSD.

Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SLAs, formed for census purposes for all S/Ts except the Australian Capital Territory to encompass off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs.

SLA name

The naming conventions for SLAs are as follows:

- An SLA which is a whole LGA adopts the name of the LGA including its LGA status as a suffix. Thus, Northam (S) and Northam (T) in Western Australia are separate SLAs. The various LGA types currently in use by states and the Northern Territory are specified in Chapter 3.
- An SLA which is part of an LGA may adopt a hyphenated name the first part of which is the name of the LGA.

For example, the LGA of Stirling (C) in Western Australia is split into three SLAs:

Stirling (C) - Central
Stirling (C) - Coastal
Stirling (C) - South-Eastern

- If the name includes - Pt A, - Pt B, or - Pt C, this indicates the SLAs were formed by splitting an LGA between two or more SSDs and - Pt A usually denotes the more urban part of the split LGA.

For example, the LGA of the Municipality of Latrobe in Tasmania is split into two SLAs:

Latrobe (M) - Pt A
Latrobe (M) - Pt B

- An SLA which is part of an LGA may adopt a locality or suburb name.

For example, the LGA of the City of Brisbane in Queensland is split into 158 SLAs, including:

Acacia Ridge
Albion
Yeronga
Zillmere

- The name of an SLA which covers an unincorporated area does not contain LGA type. In New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia the SLA name may include Unincorp.

For example, the SLAs West Arnhem (in Northern Territory), Bruce (in Australian Capital Territory) and Unincorp. Far West (in New South Wales).

- A small number of SLA names are duplicated across S/Ts and one SLA name is duplicated within an S/T. These names become unique when used in conjunction with SLA codes.

Example:

City (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
City - Inner (Queensland and Northern Territory)
City - Remainder (Queensland and Northern Territory)
Durack (Queensland and Northern Territory)
Kingston (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
Oxley (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
Red Hill (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
West End (Townsville (C) and Brisbane (C))

SLA code

The coding conventions for SLAs are as follows:

- SLAs are identified by four-digit codes. These codes are unique only within an S/T. For unique Australia-wide identification the four-digit SLA code must be preceded by the unique one-digit S/T code.

Example:

Barcaldine (S) 0400 (in Queensland) (S/T code 3)
Arltarlpilta (CGC) 0400 (in Northern Territory) (S/T code 7)

- The fourth (last) digit of the SLA code indicates the following:
 - 0 means the SLA is a whole LGA.

Example:

Ashburton (S) 0250 (in Western Australia)

- 1-8 means the SLA is part of an LGA.

Example:

Sorell (M) - Pt A 4811 (in Tasmania)
Sorell (M) - Pt B 4812 (in Tasmania)

- 9 means the SLA is either an unincorporated area, an Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SLA or an undefined category (see Chapter 3, Chapter 2 or Chapter 10 respectively).

Example:

Bruce 0729 (in Australian Capital Territory)
Off-Shore Areas & Migratory 9779

- Within each S/T, SLA codes are in the range of 0001-9990; codes ending with 99 and those within the range of 9991-9999 have been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).
- In the Main Structure, SLA codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an SSD. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

The SSD is a general purpose spatial unit of intermediate size between the SLA (smaller) and the SD (larger) in the Main Structure.

- SSDs consist of one or more SLAs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps. The larger spatial units of SDs and S Dists can be formed by aggregation of SSDs (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). SSDs do not cross S/T boundaries except in the case of the Other Territories SSD, which comprises the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 217 SSDs in Australia.

Delimitation of SSDs

The delimitation criteria for SSDs are as follows:

- SSDs are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. Moreover, in the non-urban areas (i.e. outside the capital cities or areas with population clusters of 25,000 or more people), an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.
- Where possible, SSD boundaries embrace contiguous whole LGAs. However, in some cases e.g. where S Dists or capital city SDs have been defined, an SSD boundary may split the LGA into parts with each part of the LGA forming part of the relevant SSD.

For example, the SSDs of Richmond-Tweed SD Bal and Tweed Heads & Tweed Coast dissect the LGA of the Area of Tweed in New South Wales.

- One or more SSDs must be defined for an S Dist. that falls within an S/T.

For example, the Ballarat City SSD in Victoria covers the same area as the Ballarat S Dist.

- One or more SSDs must be defined for each part of an S Dist. which straddles an S/T boundary.

For example, the Albury SSD in New South Wales plus the Wodonga SSD in Victoria together cover the same area as the Albury-Wodonga S Dist. which lies partly in New South Wales and partly in Victoria.

- Where an SD contains an S Dist. (or part of an S Dist.), one or more SSDs must be defined for the S Dist. and at least one SSD for the remainder of the SD which falls outside the S Dist. even though the SSD(s) so defined may not have a predominant town or cluster of towns with a unifying socioeconomic influence over the region.

For example, in New South Wales, the SSD of Hunter SD Bal is defined as the part of the Hunter SD which is outside the Newcastle (NSW) S Dist. (and Newcastle SSD).

- One Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SSD is defined for each S/T except the Australian Capital Territory.

SSD code

The coding conventions for SSDs are as follows:

- SSDs are identified by unique two-digit codes within SDs. Unique Australia-wide identification of SSDs is obtained by use of a five-digit code comprising S/T code (digit 1), SD code (digits 2-3) and SSD code (digits 4-5).

For example, Albury 15505 (in New South Wales) and Wodonga 24505 (in Victoria).

- SSD code 88 has been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).
- In the Main Structure, SSD codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an SD. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

Statistical Division (SD)

The SD is a general purpose spatial unit and is the largest and most stable spatial unit within each S/T in the Main Structure.

SDs consist of one or more SSDs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps. SDs aggregate to form S/Ts (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 69 SDs in Australia including one SD for the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Delimitation of SDs

The current basis for delimiting SDs was determined by the 31st and 33rd Conferences of Statisticians of Australia in 1969 and 1973. The delimitation criteria are as follows:

- SDs should ideally be delimited on the basis of socioeconomic criteria and should, where possible, embrace contiguous whole local government areas.
- SD boundaries so delimited should be changed only at infrequent intervals, for example, at periods of 15-20 years.
- SD boundaries should be determined in time for use in the next Population Census if practicable.
- A Capital City SD (currently one in each capital city) should be defined, after consultation with planners, to contain the anticipated development of the city for a period of at least 20 years. This fixed SD boundary - as distinct from the moving urban centre boundary - delimits an area which is stable for general statistical purposes. It represents the city in a wider sense. This delimitation procedure cannot be applied to the separate urban centres within a Capital City SD.
- SDs outside a capital city should be defined as a relatively homogeneous region characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

More specifically, the SDs within the individual S/T have been delimited as follows:

- In New South Wales, SDs correspond to proclaimed Government Regions with the exception that North Coast Region consists of the SDs of Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast. These Regions were delimited to maximize the degree of socioeconomic interactions within each Region. Information on transport patterns, telephone traffic between major cities and towns, retail shopping, fresh goods marketing, provincial newspaper circulation areas and coverage of principal radio stations were all used in delimiting these boundaries.
- In Victoria, the SDs prior to 1995 generally corresponded to State Planning Regions adopted by the Victorian Government in October 1981. However, following the restructuring of local government in that State during 1994 and 1995, the SDs were redefined to accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In Queensland, formal State Planning Regions have been abolished. SDs are used on an informal basis for State Government planning purposes where relevant. SD delimitation follows the general criteria outlined above. The 2006 edition of the ASGC introduces major changes to the SDs in south east Queensland to reflect the patterns of development in this area. The Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton are now represented by their own SDs. The Brisbane SD has been adjusted and the Moreton SD has been abolished.
- In South Australia, State Planning Regions, as proposed by the Committee on Uniform Regional Boundaries for Government Departments (CURB), were adopted by the South Australia Government in 1976. CURB Regions were based on such factors as: population density and distribution, socioeconomic characteristics, political boundaries, government service areas, newspaper circulation, retail trading patterns, etc. Prior to 1998, South Australian SDs did not always correspond to CURB Regions but they always aggregated to these Regions. However, following the restructuring of local government in South Australia in 1996 and 1997, the SDs were redefined to accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In Western Australia, State Planning Regions, as proposed by the State Statistical Coordination Committee, were adopted by the Western Australia Government in January 1976. SDs in Western Australia correspond to these Regions. The Perth Metropolitan Region is delimited to be consistent with the overall concepts and planning of Perth and to take into account LGA and CD boundaries. Rural Regions on the other hand are delimited based on the socioeconomic interest of the community; the character of natural resource; the distribution of population and industries; town size; road and railway systems; and production and marketing practices.
- In Tasmania, SD delimitation follows the general considerations and criteria outlined above. They are considered satisfactory for the purpose of State Government planning.
- In the Northern Territory, SDs are based on Territory Government Administrative Regions, and are consistent with the general considerations and criteria for their delimitation described above.
- In the Australian Capital Territory, SD delimitation follows the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In the Other Territories, the SD has been delimited to represent the aggregated area of the Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

SD name

SD names tend to indicate their generalised region (e.g. Far North in Queensland). SD names are unique only within an S/T as a small number of SD names are replicated between the states (see example below). SD names become unique when used in conjunction with their SD codes or referenced to their respective state code. One Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SD is defined for each S/T except the Australian Capital Territory.

Example:

Central West (in New South Wales and Queensland)
Northern (in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania)
South West (in Queensland and Western Australia)
South Eastern (in New South Wales and Western Australia)

SD code

The coding conventions for SDs are as follows:

- SDs are identified by unique two-digit codes within an S/T. Unique Australia-wide identification of SDs requires a three-digit code comprising S/T code (digit 1) and SD code (digits 2-3).

Example:

Adelaide 405

Kimberley 545

- The SD code 85 is reserved for Off-Shore Areas & Migratory SDs and the SD code 88 has been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).
- In the Main Structure, SD codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an S/T. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

State and Territory (S/T)

The S/T is the largest spatial unit in the Main Structure and in the ASGC.

Six states and five territories are recognised in the ASGC: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory and the external Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

These spatial units are political entities with fixed boundaries. Except for the last three mentioned territories, the total area of each S/T, including their off-shore islands, is used for statistical purposes as a separate spatial unit in the ASGC. Jervis Bay Territory, and the Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are included as one spatial unit at the S/T level under the category of Other Territories.

S/Ts consist of one or more SDs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

S/Ts are identified by unique one-digit codes within Australia as follows:

Code	S/T
1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other Territories

This coding order has been widely used in the ABS and other organizations as a standard for many years. The order was reviewed when Western Australia displaced South Australia as the fourth most populous state. Citing the Commonwealth Table of Precedence, which adopted a revised listing such that any textual material having protocol significance should list Western Australia before South Australia, some users requested the code for Western Australia be changed to four and South Australia to five. For the ASGC however, the above order was maintained to ensure historical continuity, to reduce potential errors in data handling and interpreting, and to avoid costs associated with changing existing systems.

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Local government area structure

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Purpose

PURPOSE

The LGA Structure shows the relationship between LGAs and SLAs. This relationship can be one LGA to one SLA or one LGA to many SLAs.

The LGA Structure is separate from the Main Structure because:

- Unlike spatial units in the Main Structure, LGAs do not cover the whole of Australia
- Unlike SLAs which aggregate to form SSDs and SDs, some LGAs do not wholly fit within an SSD and an SD (e.g. Beaudesert Shire in Queensland).

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The Structure

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THE STRUCTURE

Incorporated areas only

The LGA Structure covers only incorporated areas of Australia. Incorporated areas are legally designated parts of states and territories over which incorporated local governing bodies have responsibility. The major areas of Australia not administered by incorporated bodies are the northern parts of South Australia, most of the Northern Territory and all of the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories.

In Population Census years the LGA Structure has four levels of hierarchy, in ascending order these are: CDs-SLAS-LGAs-S/Ts (Incorporated Areas). In non-census years CDs are not defined and consequently the LGA Structure has only three levels: SLAs-LGAs-S/Ts (Incorporated Areas). The spatial units in each level relate to each other in a straightforward manner: LGAs comprise one or more whole SLAs and SLAs comprise one or more whole CDs.

Processing LGAs for the ASGC

LGAs are proclaimed by state and territory government authorities and changes are gazetted throughout the year. The ABS has broadened the categories of legislation used to define local government areas for statistical purposes, to include the Indigenous Council areas in the states and Northern Territory.

LGAs are used as the base on which SLAs are defined. Because this definition process takes time, LGAs gazetted during the year leading up to an ASGC edition cannot always be included in that edition. For instance, complex LGA changes which result in complicated redesign of SLAs, or changes gazetted too close to the effective date of 1 July of an ASGC edition, may have to be included in a later edition.

Table

The current LGA Structure, down to SLA level, is shown in Chapter 15, The Classification Structures.

For example:

- Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic

S/T	LGA Name	LGA	SLA Name	SD	SSD	SLA
1	Albury (C)	10050	Albury (C)	155	15505	155050050
1	Armidale Dumaresq (A)	10110				
1			Armidale Dumaresq (A) - City	130	13015	130150111
1			Armidale Dumaresq (A) Bal	130	13015	130150112

Note that there is no SD or SSD code for the LGA because LGAs are not part of the Main Structure. This table also shows SLAs which cover unincorporated areas and are therefore not part of the LGA Structure.

For example:

S/T	LGA Name	LGA	SLA Name	SD	SSD	SLA
1	Unincorp. Far West	160	16010	160108809		

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See Chapter 2.

Local Government Area (LGA)

An LGA included in the ASGC LGA Structure is a spatial unit which represents the whole geographical area of responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council, an Aboriginal or Island Council in Queensland, or a CGC in the Northern Territory.

An LGA consists of one or more SLAs. LGAs aggregate directly to form the incorporated areas of S/Ts (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). In this edition of the ASGC, there are 667 LGAs defined.

Delimitation of LGAs

The creation and delimitation of LGAs is the responsibility of the state and territory Governments. The number of LGAs, their names and their boundaries vary over time.

Local government bodies perform a wide range of functions in the areas they administer. These functions are defined in legislation such as:

- The Local Government Acts in each state and the Northern Territory
- The Indigenous Council Acts in each state and the Northern Territory
- Specific Acts and regulations establishing Local Government Areas in Queensland, **City of Brisbane Act 1924**, and the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement (Weipa Town Area) Regulation 1994.

LGA status

In all states and the Northern Territory each incorporated area has an official status. In this ASGC edition, the various LGA status types currently in use are:

- New South Wales: Cities (C) and Areas (A)
- Victoria: Cities (C), Rural Cities (RC), Boroughs (B) and Shires (S)
- Queensland: Cities (C), Shires (S), Towns (T) and Island Councils (IC)
- South Australia: Cities (C), Rural Cities (RC), Municipalities/Municipal Councils (M), District Councils (DC), Regional Councils (RegC) and Aboriginal Councils (AC)
- Western Australia: Cities (C), Towns (T) and Shires (S)
- Tasmania: Cities (C) and Municipalities (M)
- Northern Territory: Cities (C), Towns (T), Community Government Councils (CGC) and Shires (S).

LGA name

In the LGA Structure LGA names are contracted. A suffix also indicates the LGA status.

Example:

City of Albury Albury (C)
District Council of Copper Coast Copper Coast (DC)

LGA names are not unique across states and territories (e.g. Campbelltown (C) is duplicated between New South Wales and South Australia). An LGA name will become unique when used in conjunction with a state code, or its LGA code.

LGA code

LGAs are identified by four-digit codes as follows:

- Codes are unique only within an S/T. For unique Australia-wide LGA code identification, the four-digit code must be preceded by the S/T code. All LGA codes end with the digit 0.
- Where an LGA corresponds to an SLA, the LGA code and the SLA code are identical.
- Where an LGA consists of more than one SLA, generally the first three digits of the LGA code and the SLA code are identical.

The exceptions to this rule are explained in special case LGA codes below.

Special case LGA codes

When an LGA consists of many component SLAs, it becomes impossible to maintain a three-digit link between the LGA code and the SLA codes. This occurs for the LGAs of: Queensland - Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C), Logan (C), Pine Rivers (S), Redland (S), Caboolture (S), Maroochy (S), Ipswich (C), Cairns (C), Thuringowa (C) and Townsville (C); and for the Northern Territory - Darwin (C) and Palmerston (T).

For example, the LGA of Brisbane (C) in Queensland is split into 158 SLAs, including:

Acacia Ridge 1001
Yeronga 1648
Zillmere 1653

State/Territory (S/T)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical district structure

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- The Structure
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Purpose

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PURPOSE

The S Dist. Structure maintains a list of selected, significant, predominantly urban areas in Australia which are not located within a Capital City SD (see Chapter 2). S Dists enable comparable statistics to be produced about these selected urban areas. In the main, the structure is used to report intercensal population estimates.

S Dists are maintained as a separate structure from the Main Structure because:

- the total area of S Dists does not cover the whole of Australia
- some S Dists straddle S/T boundaries (e.g. the Gold Coast-Tweed S Dist. lies partly in Queensland and partly in New South Wales).

The Structure

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THE STRUCTURE

The S Dist. Structure has four levels of hierarchy in census years, comprising in ascending order: CDs-SLAs-SSDs-S Dists. In non-census years, with CDs undefined, it has only three levels of hierarchy (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

In this structure, CDs, SLAs and SSDs are confined to those which fall within S Dists. The spatial units relate to each other through aggregation or disaggregation. For example, CDs aggregate to SLAs while SLAs are disaggregates of SSDs. The spatial units within each level of the S Dist. Structure do not collectively cover the whole of Australia.

Table

The current S Dist. Structure, down to SLA level, is shown in Chapter 15 - The Classification Structures.

For example:

- Statistical District Structure

(showing three hierarchical levels: S Dist.-SSD-SLA)

SDIST SSD SLA	Name
1003	NEWCASTLE (NSW)
11005	Newcastle
1720	Cessnock (C)
4651	Lake Macquarie (C) - East
4653	Lake Macquarie (C) - North
4655	Lake Macquarie (C) - West
5050	Maitland (C)
5903	Newcastle (C) - Inner City
5904	Newcastle (C) - Outer West
5905	Newcastle (C) - Throsby
6400	Port Stephens (A)

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The Spatial Units

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical District (S Dist.)

S Dists are predominantly urban areas, the boundaries of which are designed to contain the anticipated urban spread of the area for at least 20 years. They are generally defined as containing an urban centre population of 25,000 or more.

S Dists consist of one or more SSDs. S Dists do not aggregate to any higher level spatial units (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

There are 36 S Dists in this edition of the ASGC. Three of these straddle two states: Albury-Wodonga (New South Wales/Victoria), Gold Coast-Tweed (Queensland/New South Wales) and Canberra-Queanbeyan (Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales).

Delimitation of S Dists

The criteria for delimiting S Dists are as follows:

- S Dists consist of one or more urban centres (outside Capital City SDs) in close proximity with a population of 25,000 or more
- S Dist. boundaries are defined in anticipation of urban development of at least 20 years
- S Dists consist of one or more SSDs

- S Dists may cut across LGA boundaries
- S Dists may cut across S/T boundaries
- an S Dist. may be delimited for an urban centre with less than 25,000 population, where the ABS can determine a demand for intercensal population estimates for the area and the existing LGA/SLA boundaries are inadequate for this purpose.

S Dist. name

S Dist. names include a suffix which identifies the state(s)/territory in which the S Dist. is located.

Example:

Newcastle (NSW)
Albury-Wodonga (NSW/VIC)

S Dist. code

S Dists are identified by four-digit codes which are unique within Australia. The first two digits indicate the S/T(s) in which the S Dist. is located. For the three S Dists which cover two states, the first digit is the code of the predominant state and the second digit is the code of the other state. For the other S Dists which fall entirely within one S/T, the first digit is the S/T code and the second digit is 0. The last two digits are allocated in ascending numerical order. Gaps are left between codes for future expansion.

Example:

Newcastle (New South Wales) 1003
Albury-Wodonga (New South Wales/Victoria) 1218
Gold Coast-Tweed (Queensland/New South Wales) 3139
Canberra-Queanbeyan (Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales) 8196

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Statistical region structure

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Purpose

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PURPOSE

The SR Structure has been in use since 1986 for the production of standard statistical outputs from Population Censuses and labour force surveys. Labour Force Surveys use dissemination regions for the publication of labour force data.

SRs are maintained as a separate structure from the Main Structure because of the complex manner in which they relate to SSDs and SDs. For example, SRs can be whole SSDs, aggregates of SSDs, or part of an SSD. Similarly they can be whole SDs, aggregates of SDs or part of an SD. SRs can also be as large as a state or territory. SRs are aggregates of SLAs.

The Structure

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THE STRUCTURE

The SR Structure has six levels of hierarchy in census years, comprising in ascending hierarchical order: CDs-SLAs-SRSs-SRs-MSRs-S/Ts. In non-census years, with CDs undefined, it has only five levels of hierarchy (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1).

The spatial units in adjoining levels relate to each other by aggregation and disaggregation. For example, SRSs aggregate to SRs while SRs are disaggregates of MSRs. The spatial units within each level of the SR Structure cover the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1) without gaps or overlaps.

Table

Detailed tables of the SR Structure are shown in Chapter 15 - The Classification Structures.

For example:

- Statistical Region Structure - Broad

(showing three hierarchical levels: S/T-MSR-SR)

S/T	MSR	SR	Name
1			NEW SOUTH WALES
	1		Sydney
	04		Inner Sydney
	08		Eastern Suburbs
	12		St George-Sutherland
	16		Canterbury-Bankstown

For example:

- Statistical Region Structure - Detailed

(showing five hierarchical levels: S/T-MSR-SR-SRS-SLA)

S/T	MSR	SR	SRS	SLA	Name
1					NEW SOUTH WALES
	1				Sydney
	04				Inner Sydney
		1			Inner Sydney
			1100		Botany Bay (C)
			4800		Leichhardt (A)

The Spatial Units

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See Chapter 2.

Statistical Region Sector (SRS)

SRSs consist of one or more adjoining SLAs and in all but one case equate to one or more adjoining SSDs.

Example:

SRS SSD

Mornington

Peninsula Frankston City
Mornington
Peninsula Shire

The exception is:

- eight of the 16 SRSs in the Brisbane MSR are smaller than an SSD

Although SRSs are subdivisions of SRs, most SRSs equate with SRs. Exceptions to this generalised rule include the SRSs in the Hunter, Illawarra, Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West, Northern-North West, Gold Coast, Darling Downs-South West, Tasmania and Northern Territory SRs and the SRSs in the Brisbane MSR. SRSs are used primarily for disseminating selected labour force statistics. SRSs have also been used to present a range of regional statistics not incorporated in the Main Structure.

Example:

SR SRS
Brisbane City Inner Ring
 City Core
 Northern Inner
 Eastern Inner
 Southern Inner
 Western Inner
Brisbane City Outer Ring
 Northern Outer
 Eastern Outer
 Southern Outer
 Western Outer

There are 89 SRSs in this edition of the ASGC.

SRS code

SRSs are identified by five-digit codes. Each code consists of S/T code (digit 1), MSR code (digit 2), SR code (digits 3-4) and SRS code (digit 5).

Example:

Mornington Peninsula (21281)

Only digits 1, 3-4 and 5 are required for unique identification within Australia.

Statistical Region (SR)

SRs consist of one or more SSDs.

In the capital cities of the five larger states of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, SRs are smaller than SDs and aggregate to form the respective capital city SDs. Outside of the capital cities in these S/Ts, SRs consist of one or more adjoining SDs.

In Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories, SRs are the entire S/Ts.

There are 66 SRs in this edition of the ASGC.

SR code

SRs are identified by four-digit codes as follows:

- Each code consists of S/T code (digit 1), MSR code (digit 2) and SR code (digits 3-4).

Example:

West Moreton 3969
Gosford-Wyong 1156

- The SR code 98 has been reserved for special purposes (see Chapter 10).

Major Statistical Region (MSR)

Each of the five larger states of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia consists of two MSRs. One MSR equates with the capital city SD and the other with the balance of the state. The other S/Ts have one MSR each with each MSR covering the entire area of the S/T.

There are 14 MSRs in this edition of the ASGC.

MSR code

MSRs are identified by two-digit codes for unique identification within Australia. Each code consists of an S/T code (digit 1) and an MSR code (digit 2). MSR code 1 represents the capital city MSR in the larger states while code 9 denotes the Balance of State MSR.

Example:

MSR
Sydney 11
Balance of New South Wales 19

Delimitation of MSR, SR, SRS

One of the main uses of these spatial units is to report statistics from the Labour Force Surveys. These units were established following analyses of data from Censuses of Population and Housing, consultation with users of labour force data, consideration of minimum regional population levels required to yield reliable estimates, and the need for consistency with other statistical collections.

Population considerations dictate that Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories cannot be dissected into two MSRs (as in the other states) as their populations are too small.

The minimum population size of a region for which labour force statistics are published depends on a number of factors. The prime determinant is the reliability of data based on the population size of the region and the sampling fraction of the S/T. Unlike state and MSR level data, estimates at lower geographic levels are not constrained to conform to independently estimated population totals. Estimates for regions are also based on considerably smaller samples. For these reasons, regional estimates may be subject to high relative standard errors. Other factors that may be considered are how well the region fits with the classification structure of the S/T, how homogenous the labour force is in the region, and the uses to which the data may be put.

State/Territory (S/T)

See Chapter 2.

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Urban Centre — locality structure

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Purpose

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PURPOSE

The UC/L Structure groups CDs together to form defined areas according to population size criteria. The resulting areas are known as Urban Centres or Localities. Population counts (place of enumeration) from the latest Census of Population and Housing are used to define the UC/L Structure which means this classification structure is only current at the time of the Census. Both the Urban Centre and the Locality spatial units are made up of one or more contiguous CDs. As the UC/L Structure relates to CDs within defined areas only, the structure, in aggregate, does not cover all of Australia.

The UC/L Structure is separate from the Main Structure because:

- the boundaries do not generally coincide with SLAs and the higher level spatial units in the Main Structure
- its total area covers only part of Australia.

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The Structure

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THE STRUCTURE

The UC/L Structure is defined at Population Census times only. It comprises in ascending hierarchical order: CDs-Urban Centres/Localities.

CDs within this structure are confined to those within defined Urban Centre and Locality boundaries. As a consequence, Urban Centres and Localities aggregate to cover only part of a state or territory and thus the structure covers part of Australia only.

Urban Centres may be bisected by an S/T boundary. Where this occurs each portion of the urban centre is separately identified and is included in the Urban Centre/Locality Structure for the relevant S/T. For example, the urban centre of Albury-Wodonga is partly in New South Wales and partly in Victoria. One part is shown under New South Wales and the other under Victoria.

Table

Urban Centres and Localities are delimited by the use of actual population counts after each Census is conducted. The Urban Centres and Localities determined following the 2006 Census are listed in the publication **Statistical Geography: Volume 3 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Urban Centres/Localities, 2006** (cat. no. 2909.0).

Example:

S/T	UC/L	NAME
1		NEW SOUTH WALES
	00200	Aberdeen
	00400	Adam Inaby (L)

In this table, Urban Centre and Locality names are listed alphabetically and UC/L codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within each S/T. The suffix (L) is shown after Locality names to distinguish Localities from Urban Centres.

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Urban Centre/Locality (UC/L)

In broad terms, an Urban Centre is a population cluster of 1,000 or more people while a Locality is a population cluster of between 200 and 999 people. For statistical purposes, people living in Urban Centres are classified as urban while those in Localities are classified as rural.

Each Urban Centre/Locality has a clearly defined boundary and comprises one or more whole CDs. Urban Centres/Localities are redefined at each Population Census.

Delimitation of Urban Centres and Localities

The delimitation criteria for UC/Ls are based on those developed in 1965 by Dr GJR Linge from the Australian National University. The criteria that are currently in force have been adopted and subsequently amended by the Conferences of Statisticians of Australia in 1965 and 1969 and the Review of ABS Statistical Geography in 1988.

Delimitation of Urban Centres with 20,000 or more people

The criteria are as follows:

- Each Urban Centre with a population of 20,000 or more is to consist of a cluster of contiguous urban CDs and other urban areas. CDs classified as urban include the following:
 - All contiguous CDs which have a population density of 200 or more persons per square kilometre shall be classified as urban. Consequently State, SD, LGA and other administrative boundaries shall be disregarded in determining whether a CD should be included within the Urban Centre.
 - A CD consisting mainly of land used for factories, airports, small sports areas, cemeteries, hostels, institutions, prisons, military camps or certain research stations shall be classified as urban if contiguous with CDs which are themselves urban.
 - A CD consisting mainly of land used for large sporting areas, large parks, explosives handling and munitions areas, or holding yards associated with meatworks and abattoirs shall be classified as urban only if it is bordered on three sides by CDs which are themselves classified as urban.
 - Any area which is completely surrounded by CDs which are urban must itself be classified as urban.
 - Where an Urban Centre of 20,000 or more population is separated from another urban area by a gap in urban development of less than three kilometres (by the shortest railway or road distance), the gap shall be bridged by classifying a connecting CD as urban, and therefore treating the urban areas as one. If the gap is three or more kilometres (and whether or not it is comprised mainly of reserved land or a natural barrier) the urban areas shall remain separate.
 - Any area included in an Urban Centre in 1971 or thereafter under the provisions of these criteria shall continue to be so included, unless the population of the Urban Centre falls below 20,000, in which case these criteria will cease to apply.
 - If a CD was incorrectly included (for whatever reason) in a Linge area at a previous census, then it should be excluded at the next census unless it now meets the criteria.
 - Large peripheral CDs in growth areas may be fragmented; and insofar as the availability of visible boundary features allows, the fragments so created shall be as near square-shaped as possible, contain at least 100 persons at the next census and be of such a size that they will contain a collector's workload when fully developed. For the purpose of delimiting Urban Centres such fragments shall be regarded as CDs.

Delimitation of Urban Centres with 1,000 to 19,999 people

Each Urban Centre with a population between 1,000 and 19,999 is to be delimited as follows:

- The Urban Centre shall be delimited subjectively by the inspection of aerial photographs, by field inspection and/or by consideration of any other information that is available.
- All contiguous urban growth is to be included (even if this would not necessarily occur if the density criterion were applied), together with any close but non-contiguous development which could be clearly regarded as part of the Urban Centre. However, for Urban Centres which contain a population approaching 20,000 the objective criteria applied for Urban Centres with 20,000 people should also be considered.

Delimitation of Localities

Localities are to be delimited as follows:

- All population clusters of less than 1,000 population and whose population is expected to reach 200 by the next census are to be examined for boundary delineation.
- The following criteria must be satisfied before a boundary is drawn around a Locality. It must:
 - contain a non-farm population of at least 200 people but not more than 999 by the next census
 - have a minimum of 40 occupied non-farm dwellings with a discernible urban street pattern
 - have a discernible nucleus of population.
- If there is some doubt that a Locality will reach the minimum population of 200 people then a boundary should still be drawn around the Locality.
- Where, in the case of defence camps, construction camps, etc. it is anticipated that the cluster will not exist at two consecutive censuses, these camps should not be bounded.
- The Localities shall be delimited subjectively, by the use of the latest available aerial photographs, by field inspection and/or by consideration of any other information that is available.

Subjective guidelines

Guidelines for the drawing of subjectively determined UC/L boundaries are as follows:

- Wide rather than narrow boundaries are to be used to ensure inclusion of all urban or built-up areas. Some rural area can be included in an Urban Centre, if necessary, to ensure that the boundary encompasses all the urban area. However, this guideline should be interpreted in the light of the ones that follow.
- Continuity of urban development is a major consideration. Boundaries are not to be thrown very wide just to include some small non-contiguous area of urban development. (The Linge criterion of three kilometres may be of assistance in this respect in larger Urban Centres of say greater than 10,000-15,000 population).
- Where the subjective boundaries decided upon are contained within a municipal boundary and the remaining area or population is small, the municipal boundary is to be used.
- For previously bounded cities, towns or localities the boundaries are not to be changed lightly. Comparability is to be maintained with the past unless there are significant exclusions (either due to faulty boundaries at the previous census or subsequent development).
- When considering urban land usage, recognition should be given to approved plans.
- Topographic boundaries must be used wherever possible when they are consistent with the above guidelines.

UC/L name and code

When Urban Centres cross S/T boundaries, the separate portions of the Urban Centre are uniquely identified and reported in their relevant S/T.

UC/Ls are identified by a five-digit code which is only unique within each State/Territory. Use of UC/L codes in conjunction with S/T codes is necessary before these codes become unique across Australia.

Example:

S/T	UC/L	NAME
1	NEW SOUTH WALES	
	00800	Albury-Wodonga (Albury part)
2	VICTORIA	
	00400	Albury-Wodonga (Wodonga part)

The codes 00000 and 99999 are reserved as Rural Balance and Off-Shore and Migratory codes, respectively, for the S/Ts NSW, Vic., Qld, SA, WA, Tas. and NT.

The code 99999 is not applicable for the ACT as off-shore, shipping & migratory CDs are not defined for that Territory. See Chapter 2.

State/Territory (S/T)

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Section of state structure

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Purpose

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PURPOSE

The SOS Structure uses population counts from the latest Census of Population and Housing to class CDs as urban or rural. Unlike the UC/L Structure (Chapter 6), the SOS Structure includes all CDs and therefore, in aggregate, the SOS Structure covers all of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1). For the 2006 edition, three of the five different SOS were divided into sub categories based on population size.

The SOS Structure is maintained as a separate structure in the ASGC because SOS spatial units do not align with spatial units from any of the other structures.

The Structure

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THE STRUCTURE

The SOS Structure is defined only in census years. It contains three hierarchical levels, comprising in ascending order: CDs-SOS-S/Ts.

In this structure, CDs aggregate to SOS and SOS aggregate to S/Ts without gaps or overlaps. Consequently, the structure covers all of Australia.

Table

The Sections of State Structure determined following the 2006 Census are listed in the publication **Statistical Geography: Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2006** (cat. no. 1216.0). This list provides:

- Section of State Structure: States/Territories, Sections of State (showing only the top two levels of the hierarchy: S/T-SOS)

Example:

S/T SOS

S/T	SOS	Name
1		New South Wales
	0	Major Urban
	1	Other Urban
	2	Bounded Locality
	3	Rural Balance
	4	Migratory

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Sections of State (SOS)

Within a state or territory, each SOS represents an aggregation of non-contiguous geographical areas of a particular urban/rural type. The categories are:

- Major Urban: this category provides for a further three categories of urban areas (Urban Centres from the UC/L Structure) based upon population ranges of 1,000,000 or more, 250,000 to 999,999, and 100,000 to 249,999
- Other Urban: this category provides for a further five categories of urban areas (Urban Centres from the UC/L Structure) based upon population ranges of 50,000 to 99,999, 20,000 to 49,999, 10,000 to 19,999, 5,000 to 9,999, and 1,000 to 4,999
- Bounded Locality: this category provides for a further two categories of rural areas (Localities from the UC/L Structure) with a population of 500 to 999 and 200 to 499
- Rural Balance: the remainder of the S/T
- Migratory: areas composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs (see Chapter 2).

SOS code

SOS are identified by unique two-digit codes within each S/T. For unique Australia-wide identification, each two-digit SOS code has to be used in conjunction with the S/T code.

State/Territory (S/T)

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Remoteness structure

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PURPOSE

The final structure listed in the ASGC is the Remoteness Structure (see ASGC Structural Chart, Chapter 1). The first edition of the ASGC to include a structure describing Australia in terms of a measurement of Remoteness was ASGC Edition 2001. The Remoteness Structure includes all CDs and therefore, in aggregate, it covers the whole of Australia (as defined in Chapter 1). The purpose of the structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs).

There are six RAs in this structure.

The Remoteness Structure is used for the production of standard ABS statistical outputs from Population Censuses and some ABS surveys.

The Remoteness Structure is maintained as a separate structure in the ASGC because the spatial units (RAs) do not align with those from any of the other structures.

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The Structure

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THE STRUCTURE

The Remoteness Structure is defined only in census years, commencing with the census year 2001 and then further in census year 2006. It contains three hierarchical levels, comprising in ascending order: CDs-RAs-S/Ts.

In this structure, CDs aggregate to RAs and RAs aggregate to S/Ts without gaps or overlaps. Consequently the structure covers all of Australia.

Table

The Remoteness Structure determined for the 2006 Census is listed in the publication **Statistical Geography: Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2006** (cat. no. 1216.0). The listing provides:

- Remoteness Structure: States/Territories, Remoteness Areas (showing only the top two levels of the hierarchy: S/T-RA)

Example:

S/T	RA	Name
1	0	New South Wales
0	0	Major Cities of Australia
0	1	Inner Regional Australia
0	2	Outer Regional Australia
0	3	Remote Australia
0	4	Very Remote Australia
0	5	Migratory

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Census Collection District (CD)

See Chapter 2.

Remoteness Area (RA)

Within a S/T, each RA represents an aggregation of non-contiguous geographical areas which share common characteristics of remoteness. While statistical data classed to this structure may be available by S/T, characteristics of remoteness are determined in the context of Australia as a whole. Therefore, not all RAs are

represented in each S/T. The categories are:

- Major Cities of Australia: CDs with an average Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) index value of 0 to 0.2
- Inner Regional Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4
- Outer Regional Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92
- Remote Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53
- Very Remote Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 10.53
- Migratory: composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs (see Chapter 2).

Delimitation of Remoteness Areas

The delimitation criteria for RAs are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) and the National Key Centre For Social Applications of GIS (GISCA). ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre in each of five size classes. For more information on how ARIA is defined see the **Information Papers ABS Views on Remoteness, 2001** (cat. no. 1244.0) and **Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia** (cat. no. 1244.0.00.001). Also refer to **Census Geography Paper 03/01 - ASGC Remoteness Classification - Purpose and Use**, available from the ABS web site.

RA code

RAs are identified by unique one-digit codes within each state/territory. For unique Australia-wide identification, each RA must be used in conjunction with the S/T code.

State/Territory (S/T)

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PURPOSE

Mesh Blocks are a new small area unit introduced by the ABS for the 2006 Census. They will not be fully integrated with the ASGC until after the review of the ASGC that is planned to be completed by July 2008. An information paper **Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2007** (cat. no. 1216.0.55.001) has been published and a request for submissions has been made as part of the review.

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Mesh Blocks (MB)

Mesh Blocks are intended as the smallest geographical unit for which ABS data will be output. They will not be used as a collection unit, unlike the CD. Mesh Blocks do not aggregate to CDs.

Mesh Blocks have been identified as to their predominant land use: residential, commercial, agricultural, parkland etc. In residential areas Mesh Blocks will generally contain between 30 to 60 dwellings. For more information regarding Mesh Blocks and to download the draft Mesh Block boundaries please refer to the [Information Paper Draft Mesh Blocks Australia, 2005](#) (cat. no. 1209.0.55.001) and to the earlier [Information Paper Mesh Blocks Australia, 2003](#) (cat. no. 1209.0).

MB Codes

MBs are identified by unique eleven-digit codes within each S/T.

Example:

10000010000 is MB 0000010000 of New South Wales
50007680000 is MB 0007680000 of Western Australia

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Special purpose ASGC codes

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PURPOSE

To allow data to be coded when only incomplete location information is available, a series of special purpose codes has been created for each hierarchical level within the ASGC's Main Structure and for SRs within the SR Structure. These codes are used when people provide limited address details or have no fixed place of abode.

Special purpose codes enable data to be coded to the broadest hierarchical level reported. For example, a reported address may be sufficiently detailed to allow it to be coded to a Capital City SD within a S/T, even though it cannot be coded to an SSD within that Capital City SD.

Coding data to a higher level unit in a hierarchical classification without also coding it to the lower levels would cause the data value for the higher unit to no longer equal the sum of data values for the lower units. Special purpose (i.e. dummy area) codes have therefore been created for each hierarchical level in the Main Structure and for SRs within the SR Structure, to which geographically undefined data can be classified.

Main Structure

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MAIN STRUCTURE

In the Main Structure special purpose codes relate to, in ascending hierarchical order: SLAs, SSDs, SDs and S/Ts.

Special purpose SLA codes

Four-digit SLA codes ending with 99 are reserved for coding undefined area data to SLA level. The first two digits of undefined SLA codes are normally in the range 00-89.

Example:

0199 Greater Hobart Undefined

1399 Lyell Undefined

Information required to be coded at SLA level but only able to be coded at SSD level, is coded to the undefined SLA within the defined SSD.

Example:

SD SSD SLA

20 Mersey-Lyell 15 Lyell 1399 Lyell Undefined

Information required to be coded at SLA level but only able to be coded at SD level, is coded to the undefined SLA of the undefined SSD within the defined SD.

Example:

SD SSD SLA

05 Sydney 88 Sydney Undefined 0099 Sydney Undefined

A number of SLA codes within the range 0099-9999 are reserved for specific applications.

- Code 0099 is reserved for the undefined SLA in each capital city SD.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

1 05 88 0099 Sydney Undefined

- Code 9899 is reserved for the undefined SLA within an undefined SD, within a defined S/T. For example, when information is required to be coded at SLA level but is only able to be coded at the S/T level, it is coded to SLA 9899.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

1 88 88 9899 New South Wales Undefined

8 88 88 9899 Australian Capital Territory Undefined

- Code 9099 is reserved for the undefined SLA within an undefined SD, within an undefined S/T (see next page). For example, when information is required to be coded at SLA level but is only able to be coded at the Australia level, it is coded to SLA 9099. This code is used to code Population Census data when usual residence information is not stated.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

0 88 88 9099 S/T Undefined, Not Stated for census purposes

- Code 9199 is used in 'usual residence' and similarly worded coding where the information is not applicable (e.g. children who had not been born five years ago).

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

1 88 88 9199 New South Wales, Not Applicable

- Code 9299 is used in usual residence and similarly worded coding when the information relates to overseas.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

3 88 88 9299 Queensland, Overseas

- Code 9399 is used as a dummy LGA to enable S/T totals to be produced for some LGA output from the Censuses of Population and Housing. In such circumstances, code 9399 equates to the aggregated unincorporated SLAs in each S/T.

Example:

S/T LGA

7 9399 Northern Territory, Aggregation of unincorporated SLAs

- Code 9499 is used for persons with no fixed place of abode, including children in care, persons in prison etc.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

4 88 88 9499 South Australia, No fixed abode

Special purpose SD and SSD codes

The two-digit code 88 is reserved for coding undefined area information to SSD and SD levels. A dummy SD, with an SD code of 88, exists for every S/T in the Main Structure, except Other Territories. Similarly there is a dummy SSD for every SD, except for Other Territories.

Example:

S/T SD SSD

1 New South Wales 88 New South Wales Undefined 05 Sydney 88 Sydney Undefined

Special purpose S/T code

Information is coded to S/T Undefined when address details specify Australia only (i.e. without S/T details). The S/T code for S/T Undefined is 0. This code is also used to code Population Census data when usual residence is not stated.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

0 88 88 9099 S/T Undefined or for Population Census purposes - Not stated

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Statistical Region Structure

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STATISTICAL REGION STRUCTURE

In the SR Structure, special purpose codes relate to SLAs, SRs and S/Ts.

Special purpose SLA codes

See Chapter 10.

Special purpose SR codes

In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, the two-digit code 98 is reserved for coding undefined area data to the SR level.

Example:

S/T SR SLA

5 98 9899 Western Australia Undefined

In the remaining S/Ts (Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Other Territories) there is only one SR, so undefined SR level information is coded to an undefined SLA within each S/T's one defined SR (code 04).

Example:

S/T SR SLA

8 04 9899 Australian Capital Territory Undefined

Special purpose S/T code

See Special purpose S/T code above.

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GUIDELINES

The ASGC was created to allow spatially comparable statistics to be collected and published by the ABS. However, this objective can only be achieved if the ASGC is consistently applied across all statistical work. The following publishing guidelines are therefore used in the ABS:

- Where possible, each table relates to one particular ASGC structure only. This structure is identified in the table heading or a table footnote.
- Where possible, the ASGC structure is represented in full. Omissions of one or more hierarchical levels in one structure are however, permissible. For example, the entire CD level or entire SSD level of the Main Structure may be omitted. All omissions are noted and explained in the publication.
- Partial omissions from an ASGC structure may also be necessary because of confidentiality considerations. When ASGC spatial units have to be combined, the combinations are confined to spatial units which are:
 - within one ASGC structure

- at the same hierarchical level
- within one spatial unit at the next hierarchical level.

For example, in the Main Structure, two or more SLAs are combined within an SSD or, two or more SSDs within an SD.

- In certain circumstances it is permissible in one table, to publish statistics which relate to more than one ASGC structure, for example, if statistics are required on LGAs and SDs. Extreme care is required, however, to ensure the statistics being cross-classified cover the same total area. For example, in some states and the Northern Territory, LGAs cover only part of the S/T, while SDs cover the entire S/T. A cross-classification of LGAs within SDs would therefore not be feasible if S/T totals were required. In this case, use of the Main Structure or the SR Structure would be more appropriate.
- ASGC spatial unit names are shown in table stubs or column headings. These should conform with those in the ASGC or authorised ASGC subsets.
- Each file, document or publication containing statistics classified according to the ASGC specifies the applicable ASGC edition. This is necessary to ensure users can compare like areas across different collections.
- Care should be taken in publishing ASGC spatial unit codes. In publications containing combined national, S/T data, ASGC spatial unit codes are quoted in conjunction with spatial unit names or prefixed by S/T codes to allow unique identification throughout Australia.

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INTRODUCTION

The first edition of the ASGC had an effective date of 5 July 1984 and adopted the geographical areas already in use in the ABS for some time prior to that date. In 1988, the ASGC underwent a review and most of the findings were incorporated into the 1991 edition of the ASGC. A further review of the ASGC commenced in early 1996 and was completed in 1997. This review did not result in any changes to the ASGC spatial units or their delimitation criteria. However a decision was made to review the existing capital city SDs, and S Dists, to ensure they will meet statistical requirements for at least the next twenty years. Sections of State were also reviewed to determine additional classes for the Urban Centres. The outcomes of these reviews were implemented in the ASGC 2001 Edition.

Prior to 1993, the ASGC was updated on an as-needed basis which generally resulted in updates occurring once or twice a year. Since 1994, the ASGC has been updated annually (with the exception of 1997, in which no update occurred) with an effective date of 1 July. The nine editions of the ASGC manual between 1984 and 1990 were known as Edition 1 to Edition 9. By contrast, the five editions between 1991 and 1995 were known as Edition 2.1 to Edition 2.5. From 1996, the ASGC edition is known by the year it becomes effective, e.g. the 2005 Edition.

Earlier editions of the ASGC manual were kept up-to-date by the issue of replacement pages. Editions 1 to 9 formed one series of editions. Similarly, Edition 2.1 was the base edition for the second series of ASGC manuals, which included Editions 2.1 to 2.5. The 1996, 2001 and 2006 Editions were published as part of three-volume sets of Statistical Geography publications relating to those census years. The 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 Editions were each published as a single volume. The 2007 Edition is published as a single volume.

SPATIAL UNIT AND CODE CHANGES

Essentially, the ASGC is updated in response to two types of changes:

- Externally controlled spatial unit changes. These changes relate to administrative or political areas which have been adopted as spatial units in the ASGC. The ABS has no control over changes to these types of spatial units. The most usual changes of this type are changes to LGAs made by state and territory governments. These changes can range from LGA boundary variations to the creation or amalgamation of whole LGAs and usually require consequential changes to related ASGC spatial units such as SLAs.
- All other changes. These cover changes to ABS-defined spatial units, such as SLAs created within LGAs or changes to SSD boundaries, or changes to the principles and criteria which govern the delimitation of these spatial units. On occasion, changes of this type are triggered by changes to administrative or political areas described above. More usually, changes of this type result from ad hoc or systematic reviews.

Changes in spatial units are often, though not always, accompanied by changes to the spatial unit codes. Therefore it is important when referencing spatial units in publications or tabulations, to quote the ASGC edition as well as the names and codes of these units. The main causes of spatial unit code changes between ASGC editions are:

- changes to spatial unit areas, especially where changes are significant
- spatial unit name changes, especially in the case of LGAs and SLAs
- consequential changes i.e. where one change forces another
- general code structure revisions.

Coordination of ASGC maintenance

Maintenance of the ASGC and ASGC-related material and products is shared by the ABS central and state offices. It is coordinated by Geography Section which also has responsibility for the ASGC manual, as well as providing assistance to users.

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INTRODUCTION

The ASGC manual is essentially a reference document. Consequently, additional and more specialised ASGC-related material and products are needed to assist application of the ASGC to statistical work. Many of these materials and products are available for sale to ABS clients, as well as for use by ABS personnel. The following is a listing of some of the more important types of related material and products.

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ASGC-Related Products and Services

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ASGC-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

National Localities Index (NLI)

The National Localities Index, Australia (cat. no. 1252.0.55.001) is a coding tool designed to assist users assign the ASGC Main Structure codes to street address information. Once coded to the ASGC Main Structure direct comparisons to other ABS statistical information may be made.

The NLI consists of two parts - a Localities Index and a Streets Sub-Index. The Localities Index contains a list of all Localities in Australia. In broad terms, a Locality is a place where people live or work - or say they live or work. Localities are assigned their full ASGC Main Structure code (i.e. S/T, SD, SSD and SLA codes). The majority of Localities lie wholly within one SLA but where they are split between two or more SLAs, street information is recorded in the Streets Sub-Index.

The NLI index files are available as ASCII, comma delimited text files with fixed field lengths, suitable for downloading into personal and mainframe computers. These can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge.

ASGC 2007 will be the last release of the NLI. For ASGC 2008 and beyond the NLI will be replaced with a web service, AddressCoder@ABS.

AddressCoder@ABS

AddressCoder@ABS is a web service that will assign a SLA or CD code to an address or a list of addresses. It will also be able to assign Mesh Block codes when these have been finalised. As a web service AddressCoder@ABS uses Internet Protocols to communicate and XML (eXtensible Markup Language) as its message format. It connects software to software and users will have to write their own applications to allow their systems to access the service.

This service, together with a limited interface, is available to external users who register with the National Data Network.

The National Data Network is an initiative of the ABS that provides a distributed library of data holdings relevant to policy analysis and research. These data holdings remain held and controlled by their Custodian organisations. The National Data Network provides a complete catalogue of available data sources allowing users to easily search for, and access the data holdings available. Data Custodians will have access to a range of web based services, protocols, procedures and tools to assist them to more efficiently manage and share data in a way that ensure security and privacy. AddressCoder@ABS is one of those services.

Maps and digital boundaries

Maps depicting past years ASGC boundaries are included in the various editions of this publication from 1996 onwards. Maps depicting the 1981 and 1986 Census Editions were included in the respective Census Publications. Maps of the ASGC Edition 2007 Main Structure are included in this publication.

Digital boundaries for 1981 (pre ASGC), 1986 and from 1991 onwards are available in MapInfo interchange format (.MID .MIF) on several CDROM products. The 2007 ASGC digital boundaries are also available in MapInfo interchange format and ESRI Shapefile format, these boundaries can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge on Statistical Geography - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Digital Boundaries, 2007 (cat. no. 1259.0.30.001).

Labels and Codes

Listings of ASGC labels and codes are available for all structures and all editions of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (cat. no. 1216.0.15.001). These are available electronically as ASCII comma delimited text files and can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge.

Conversion listings and concordances

The ABS has developed a large number of concordances between editions of the ASGC and between the various structures. These are available electronically as ASCII comma delimited text files and can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge. Concordances can be accessed from [ABS Postal Area Concordances, Aug 2006](#) (cat. no. 2905.0.55.001), [Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGC\) Concordances 01 July 2007](#) (cat. no. 1216.0.15.002) or by contacting the ABS on geography@abs.gov.au.

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter gives the background to the review of the ASGC, and the proposed new Australian Statistical Geography (ASG) to replace it.

The current ASGC concepts are based on the work of Professor G.J.R Linge undertaken in the mid 1960s. His urban/rural concepts were applied for the first time to the results of the 1966 Census. The concept of a capital city statistical division (SD) was used for the 1971 Census. A complete restructure of the ABS's statistical geography, based on Professor Linge's work, was implemented for the 1976 Census. These concepts and classification rules were formalised to create the ASGC in 1984.

The ASGC has been criticised in the past on a number of grounds:

- it is not stable due to the need to align boundaries with LGAs;
- the definition of urban and rural does not reflect recent developments in settlement patterns, transport and communications;
- the population range of the ASGC units at each level are too great;
- CDs are compromised by the requirement to be the basis for both collecting and publishing statistics;
- it is difficult to relate to other geographic boundaries such as postcodes and electoral divisions;
- and, it is not based on sufficiently objective criteria.

These criticisms were addressed in a review of the ASGC in 1996-1997 led by Professor Graham Hugo, but many of the recommendations were not implemented because the data and IT infrastructure did not exist. Since 1997 there have been several developments that have changed the situation. These include: the Geocoded National Address File (G-NAF) developed by PSMA Australia; the use of Intelligent Character Recognition and Automatic Coding to capture and cost-effectively code large volumes of data; and improvements in Geographic Information Systems generally.

In response to these developments the ABS developed Mesh Blocks, which will greatly improve the ability to create, disseminate and analyse spatial data and over time. The review is the next step: to develop more appropriate ways for the ABS to present spatial data to better meet the needs of the contemporary data user.

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PROGRESS OF THE REVIEW

The first phase of the review includes all aspects of the ASGC except definitions of Rural, Urban, and Remoteness. The definitions of rural and urban will be the subject of a second phase of the review to be carried out through 2008.

In late 2006 the ABS convened the ASGC Review Committee, a panel of internal and external experts to guide the review and generate ideas. In the first half of 2007 there was a round of consultation with key stakeholders, including presentations and visits to all the states and territories.

The result of this first round was an information paper: Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (cat. no. 1216.0.55.001) released on 16 August 2007 and available free from the ABS web site. This paper is the basis of a second round of consultation due to be completed in early October 2007.

The proposal that emerges from the second round of consultation will be put to ABS management in late 2007. If this proposal is accepted, then work will begin in 2008 on defining the various regions, their codes and labels with further stakeholder consultation.

The ASGC will continue to be published until at least 2010. The ASG will be published in late 2009 or early 2010. The ASGC and ASG will run in parallel through 2010. 2006 Census data will be released on the ASG. The ABS intends to move to the ASG for the 2011 Census, although it is possible that some parts of the ASGC will still be used for the release of 2011 Census data.

For a more complete discussion of the review and the proposed Australian Statistical Geography please refer to this paper which is available free from the ABS web site.

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Implication of the change

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IMPLICATION OF THE CHANGE

The ASG will bring all the boundary sets used by the ABS under the one scheme. All boundaries will be either built up from or approximated by Mesh Blocks. It will be possible to introduce new boundary sets if new user requirements are identified.

For many users, the key change between the ASGC and ASG is the abandonment of the CD and SLA as fundamental units of the geography.

Census data will be released on a new census output unit optimised for the release of a range of data called the Statistical Area 1 (SA1s). Unlike CDs the SA1s will be made up of whole Mesh Blocks; census collector's work load will not be a consideration in their design. Over most of Australia SA1s will not be comparable to CDs.

Intercensal small area data, such as Building Approvals, Estimated Residential Population and Mortality will be released on a new unit called the Statistical Area 2 (SA2s). Unlike the current SLAs will not be based on LGAs, but on suburbs in urban areas and the functional zones (the area from which people come to a centre to access employment, goods and services and for employment) in regional areas.

The unlinking of LGAs from the SA2 unit, should not be seen as an abandonment of LGAs. LGAs will form a boundary set in their own right and the data currently available for LGAs under the ASGC will remain available under the ASG.

Most of the boundaries of the ASG, including the SA1 and SA2s, will remain stable between Censuses.

The changes will cause some disruption to time series. Data collected at the Mesh Block level can be readily recast on to any previous (or future boundaries) which can be approximated accurately with Mesh Blocks. Data not collected on Mesh Blocks, cannot be so easily recast onto the new boundaries. The ABS will create a series of concordances to facilitate this. In the long run, data comparability across time will be greatly improved as the new classification is more stable. Data from the 2006 Census will be available on Mesh Blocks thus providing a benchmark for population based time series.

Aspects of the ASGC are also entrenched in state and commonwealth legislation; this legislation may need to be amended. A letter explaining the consequences of the review will be sent to all Attorneys General.

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The Classification Structures

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ASGC Classification Structures

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The Classification Structures are available as Excel files on the Details page. They are also available in **Chapter 15 The Classification Structures** (pages 58 to 144) of the publication; Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) July 2007 (cat. no. 1216.0). This publication is in pdf format and is available on the [Details](#) page.

The Classification Structures outlined in the 2007 publication are as follows:

Main Structure - Broad
Main Structure - Detailed
Statistical District Structure
Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic
Statistical Region Structure - Broad
Statistical Region Structure - Detailed

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Maps

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2007 ASGC Maps

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Maps are available in **Chapter 16 Maps** (pages 145 - 208) of the publication; Australian Standard Geographical

Classification (ASGC) July 2007 (cat. no. 1216.0). This publication is in pdf format and is available on the [Details](#) page.

The 2007 ASGC Maps contained within the 2007 publication are as follows:

Geographic Australia

New South Wales

- Statistical Divisions
- Sydney Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

Victoria

- Statistical Divisions
- Melbourne Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

Queensland

- Statistical Divisions
- Brisbane Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

South Australia

- Statistical Divisions
- Adelaide Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

Western Australia

- Statistical Divisions
- Perth Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

Tasmania

- Statistical Divisions
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

Northern Territory

- Statistical Divisions
- Darwin Statistical Division
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

Australian Capital Territory

- Statistical Divisions
- Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Local Areas

Other Territories

- Statistical Local Areas

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Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this product:

A	Area
AC	Aboriginal council
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Adel.	Adelaide
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
B	Borough
Bal	Balance
BSD	Brisbane Statistical Division
C	City
C'maine	Castlemaine
C. Goldfields	Central Goldfields
CD	collection district
CGC	Community Government Council
DC	District Council
excl.	excluding
E.	East
Gr.	Greater
incl.	including
I./Is	Island
IC	Island council
LGA	local government area
M'borough	Maryborough
M	Municipality
M. Downs	Murrumba Downs
MSR	major statistical region
Mt C'tha	Mount Coot-tha
N.	North/Northern
Norw. P'ham St Ptrs	Norwood, Payneham and St Peters
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OT	Other Territories
P'sula	Peninsula
Port Pirie C, Dists	Port Pirie City and Districts
Pt	Part
Qld	Queensland
RA	Remoteness Area
RC	Rural City
RegC	Regional Council
Res.	Reservoir
S	Shire
S'bank-D'lands	Southbank-Docklands
S'saye	Strathfieldsaye
S C'st	Sunshine Coast
S Dist	statistical district
S.	South/Southern
S/T	state or territory
SA	South Australia
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SOS	Section of State
SR	statistical region
SRS	statistical region sector
SSD	statistical subdivision
T	Town
Tas.	Tasmania
UC/L	Urban Centre/Locality
Vic.	Victoria
W.	West
WA	Western Australia
Wtrs	Waters

Effective Dates of ASGC Editions (Appendix)

APPENDIX 1 EFFECTIVE DATES OF ASGC EDITIONS

ASGC EDITIONS

ASGC EDITIONS

Edition	Effective Date
1	5 July 1984
2	29 July 1985
3	1 January 1986
4	1 July 1986
5	1 January 1988
6	1 July 1988
7	1 January 1989
8	1 July 1989
9	1 July 1990
2.1	1 January 1991
2.2	1 July 1992
2.3	1 July 1993
2.4	1 July 1994
2.5	1 July 1995
1996	1 July 1996
1998	1 July 1998
1999	1 July 1999
2000	1 July 2000
2001	1 July 2001
2002	1 July 2002
2003	1 July 2003
2004	1 July 2004
2005	1 July 2005
2006	1 July 2006
2007	1 July 2007

Changes to Geographical Areas 2006–2007 (Appendix)

APPENDIX 2 CHANGES TO GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS 2006–2007

INTRODUCTION

This Appendix contains details of all changes to Statistical Divisions, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Local Areas and Statistical Districts between ASGC Editions 2006 and 2007.

NEW SOUTH WALES

STATISTICAL DIVISION

<i>Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Nature of Change</i>	<i>Date of change to ASGC</i>
Hunter	10	Enlarged to include part of Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A from North Western	01-07-07
Northern	30	Enlarged to include part of Warrumbungle Shire (A) from North Western	01-07-07
North Western	35	Reduced by the transfer of part of Warrumbungle Shire (A) to Northern Reduced by the transfer of part of Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A to Hunter	01-07-07 01-07-07

STATISTICAL SUBDIVISION

<i>Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Nature of Change</i>	<i>Date of change to ASGC</i>
Albury	5505	Reduced by the transfer of part of Greater Hume Shire (A) - Pt A to Upper Murray (excl. Albury)	01-07-07
Canterbury-Bankstown	0520	Reduced by the transfer of part of Bankstown (C) - North-East to Central Western Sydney	01-07-07
Central Macquarie (excl. Dubbo)	3505	Reduced by the transfer of part of Warrumbungle Shire (A) to North Central Plain Reduced by the transfer of part of Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A to Hunter SD Bal	01-07-07 01-07-07
Central Western Sydney	0540	Enlarged to include part of Bankstown (C) - North-East from Canterbury-Bankstown	01-07-07
Hunter SD Bal	1010	Enlarged to include part of Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A from Central Macquarie (excl. Dubbo)	01-07-07
North Central Plain	3020	Enlarged to include part of Warrumbungle Shire (A) from Central Macquarie (excl. Dubbo)	01-07-07
Queanbeyan	4505	Enlarged to include part of Cooma-Monaro (A) from Snowy	01-07-07
Snowy	4520	Reduced by the transfer of part of Cooma-Monaro (A) to Queanbeyan	01-07-07
Upper Murray (excl. Albury)	5510	Enlarged to include part of Greater Hume Shire (A) - Pt A from Albury	01-07-07

STATISTICAL DISTRICT

Name	Code	Nature of Change	Date of change to ASGC
Albury-Wodonga (NSW/VIC)	1218	Reduced by the transfer of part of Greater Hume Shire (A) - Pt A to Corowa Shire (A)	01-07-07
Canberra-Queanbeyan (ACT/NSW)	8196	Enlarged to include part of Cooma-Monaro (A)	01-07-07

STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA

Name	Code	Nature of Change	Approx. change in net area (ha)	Date of change to ASGC
Auburn (A)	0200	Gained from Bankstown (C) - North-East	+3.85	01-07-07
Bankstown (C) - North-East	0351	Lost to Auburn (A)	-3.85	01-07-07
Bathurst Regional (A) - Pt B	0473	Lost to Blayney (A) Lost to Oberon (A)	-3.49 -145.5	01-07-07 01-07-07
Blayney (A)	0850	Gained from Bathurst Regional (A) - Pt B	+ 3.49	01-07-07
Clarence Valley (A) Bal	1738	Gained from Coffs Harbour (C) - Pt B	+2.23	01-07-07
Coffs Harbour (C) - Pt B	1804	Lost to Clarence Valley (A) Bal	-2.23	01-07-07
Cooma-Monaro (A)	2050	Lost to Palerang (A) - Pt A	-4554.6	01-07-07
Corowa Shire (A)	2300	Gained from Greater Hume Shire (A) - Pt A	+466.34	01-07-07
Glen Innes Severn (A)	3010	Gained from Tenterfield (A)	+5.05	01-07-07
Greater Hume Shire (A) - Pt A	3371	Lost to Corowa Shire (A)	-466.34	01-07-07
Hastings (A) - Pt A	3751	Renamed to Port Macquarie-Hastings (A) - Pt A and SLA code changed to 6381	nil	01-07-07
Hastings (A) - Pt B	3754	Renamed to Port Macquarie-Hastings (A) - Pt B and SLA code changed to 6385	nil	01-07-07
Hunter's Hill (A)	4100	Renamed to Hunters Hill (A)	nil	01-07-07
Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A	5271	Lost to Upper Hunter Shire (A)	-3197.7	01-07-07
Narrabri (A)	5750	Gained from Warrumbungle Shire (A)	+16.22	01-07-07
Oberon (A)	6100	Gained from Bathurst Regional (A) - Pt B	+145.5	01-07-07
Palerang (A) - Pt A	6181	Gained from Cooma-Monaro (A)	+4554.6	01-07-07
Palerang (A) - Pt B	6184	Lost to Upper Lachlan (A)	-1181	01-07-07

Port Macquarie-Hastings (A) - Pt A	6381	Renamed from Hastings (A) - Pt A and SLA code changed from 3751	nil	01-07-07
Port Macquarie-Hastings (A) - Pt A	6385	Renamed from Hastings (A) - Pt B and SLA code changed from 3754	nil	01-07-07
Tenterfield (A)	7400	Lost to Glen Innes Severn (A)	-5.05	01-07-07
Upper Hunter Shire (A)	7620	Gained from Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A	+3197.7	01-07-07
Upper Lachlan (A)	7640	Gained from Palerang (A) - Pt B Gained from Yass Valley (A) Renamed to Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	+1181 +62.036 nil	01-07-07 01-07-07 01-07-07
Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	7640	Renamed from Upper Lachlan (A)	nil	01-07-07
Warrumbungle Shire (A)	8020	Lost to Narrabri (A)	-16.22	01-07-07
Yass Valley (A)	8710	Lost to Upper Lachlan (A)	-62.036	01-07-07

QUEENSLAND

STATISTICAL SUBDIVISION

<i>Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Nature of Change</i>	<i>Date of change to ASGC</i>
Beaudesert Shire Part A	0515	Reduced by transfer of part of Beaudesert (S) - Pt A to Logan City	01-07-07
Logan City	0530	Enlarged to include part of Beaudesert (S) - Pt A from Beaudesert Shire Part A	01-07-07

STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA

<i>Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Nature of Change</i>	<i>Approx. change in net area (ha)</i>	<i>Date of change to ASGC</i>
Beaudesert (S) - Pt A	0552	Lost to Greenbank-Boronia Heights	-5.981	01-07-07
Greenbank-Boronia Heights	4608	Gained from Beaudesert (S) - Pt A	+5.981	01-07-07

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STATISTICAL DIVISION

<i>Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Nature of Change</i>	<i>Date of change to ASGC</i>
Midlands	25	Reduced by the transfer of part of York (S) to Perth	01-07-07
Perth	05	Enlarged to include part of York (S) from Midlands	01-07-07

STATISTICAL SUBDIVISION

<i>Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Nature of Change</i>	<i>Date of change to ASGC</i>
Avon	2510	Reduced by the transfer of part of York (S) to East Metropolitan	01-07-07
East Metropolitan	0510	Enlarged to include part of York (S) from Avon	01-07-07
Central Metropolitan	0505	Enlarged to include part of Stirling (C) - Central from North Metropolitan	01-07-07
Fitzroy	4510	Enlarged to include parts of Halls Creek (S) and Wyndham-East Kimberley (S) from Ord	01-07-07
Hotham	2005	Enlarged to include part of Lake Grace (S) from Lakes	01-07-07
Lakes	2010	Reduced by the transfer of part of Lake Grace (S) to Hotham	01-07-07
North Metropolitan	0515	Reduced by the transfer of part of Stirling (C) - Central to Central Metropolitan	01-07-07
Ord	4505	Reduced by the transfer of parts of Halls Creek (S) and Wyndham-East Kimberley (S) to Fitzroy	01-07-07

STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA

<i>Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Nature of Change</i>	<i>Approx. change in net area (ha)</i>	<i>Date of change to ASGC</i>
Broome (S)	0980	Lost to Derby-West Kimberley (S)	-99520	01-07-07
Derby-West Kimberley (S)	2800	Gained from Broome (S), Halls Creek (S) and Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)	+998954	01-07-07
Dumbleyung (S)	3010	Gained from Lake Grace (S)	-0.811	01-07-07
Halls Creek (S)	3920	Gained from Wyndham-East Kimberley (S), and lost to Derby-West Kimberley (S)	-966932	01-07-07

Kalamunda (S)	4200	Gained from York (S)	+11.27	01-07-07
Lake Grace (S)	4900	Lost to Dumbleyung (S)	-0.811	01-07-07
Perth (C) - Remainder	7082	Lost to Vincent (T)	-55.5	01-07-07
Stirling (C) - Central	7914	Lost to Vincent (T)	-34.59	01-07-07
Vincent (T)	8570	Gained from Perth (C) - Remainder and Stirling (C) - Central	+90.09	01-07-07
Westonia (S)	9030	Lost to Yilgarn (S)	-61.85	01-07-07
Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)	9520	Lost to Derby-West Kimberley (S) and Halls Creek (S)	-534502	01-07-07
Yilgarn (S)	9660	Gained from Westonia (S)	+61.85	01-07-07
York (S)	9730	Lost to Kalamunda (S)	-11.27	01-07-07

NORTHERN TERRITORY

STATISTICAL SUBDIVISION

Name	Code	Nature of Change	Date of change to ASGC
Alligator	1015	Reduced by the transfer of part of West Arnhem to Lower Top End NT	01-07-07
Barkly	1035	Enlarged to include part of Elsey from Lower Top End NT	01-07-07
Lower Top End NT	1030	Reduced by the transfer of part of Elsey to Barkly Enlarged to include part of West Arnhem from Alligator	01-07-07

STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA

Name	Code	Nature of Change	Approx. change in net area (ba)	Date of change to ASGC
Elsey	1409	Lost to Katherine (T) Lost to Katherine (T) Lost to Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre (CGC) Lost to Tableland Gained from West Arnhem	-613 -79.64 -212700 -1,562 +3,175.1	01-07-07 01-07-07 01-07-07 01-07-07 01-07-07
Katherine (T)	2200	Gained from Elsey Gained from Elsey	+613 +79.64	01-07-07 01-07-07
Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre (CGC)	2530	Gained from Elsey	+212700	01-07-07
Tableland	3409	Gained from Elsey	+1,562	01-07-07
West Arnhem	4809	Lost to Elsey	- 3,175.1	01-07-07